

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

065-2012 NO. LTC#

RECEIVED LETTER2JOAGOMMISSION

TO:

Mayor Matti Herrera Bower and Members of the City Commission

FROM:

Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE:

March 7, 2012

SUBJECT:

2011 ANNUAL PART I UNIFORM CRIME REPORT

This Letter to the Commission (LTC) is to inform you and your colleagues of the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) statistics for Part I Crimes as indexed annually, for calendar year 2011. Part I Crimes include Homicide, Forcible Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny and Motor Vehicle Theft. Typically, annual Part I UCR statistics are shared with you via LTC between March and April each year, and provide some context as to what factors and trends have been identified for the specific reporting period. For your ease of reference, attached please find LTC No. 084-2011, which transmitted the 2010 Annual Part I Uniform Crime Report.

Miami Beach continues to gain popularity as a destination of choice for local and international visitors. Our City plays host to a growing number of special events and major event periods, as well as serve as home to an increasingly engaged resident and business community. Local economic indicators reflect this growing trend, with the collection of resort tax last year having increased by 16.7% year over year, and year-to-date, collections increasing an additional by 16.5% - both indicating record resort tax collection for our region. Occupancy rates at Miami Beach hotels were 75% in 2011, which represents an increase of almost 10% from 2010. Moreover, a comparison of passenger arrivals to Miami International Airport between January 2011 and January 2012 shows an increase of 10.2% in international arrivals and an 8.0% increase in domestic arrivals, resulting in an overall increase of 9.1% in passenger arrivals. Historically, it has been estimated that 70% of these tourists will visit Miami Beach during their stay. All of the figures serve to confirm what we have experienced anecdotally, that Miami Beach continues to grow in popularity and in the sheer number of visitors. This increase in the number of visitors during 2011 has had a significant impact on City resources and how services are delivered to the community. particularly true for the Miami Beach Police Department, which has continued to focus on its mission of making our community safe for visitors, businesses and residents alike.

Violent Crime

For calendar year 2011 homicides decreased by 50% as compared to the prior year. Rape cases were essentially flat from the prior year, and are almost 60% lower than in 2001. There were 8 more aggravated assaults in 2011 than in 2010. The total number of robberies citywide increased by only 18 cases in 2011 to a total of 370 cases. In contrast, MBPD arrested of 169 persons for robberies as compared to 149 in 2010. Overall violent crime for 2011 remain at historically low levels, with a slight increase of 2.66% from the prior year, but still lower than 2009, and more importantly, almost 30% lower than in 2001.

The MBPD has been extremely successful in driving down violent crimes over the past decade in large part by implementing several proactive crime initiatives. These initiatives led to 5,034 misdemeanor and 1,708 felony arrests and closure of several cases. The department continued outreach efforts within the entertainment district during high volume periods, such as Spring Break, to provide information and educate about date rape prevention, as well as the general prevention of crimes. In addition, during the six-week period of Spring Break in 2011, 91 felony and 328 misdemeanor arrests were effected; for a twoweek period in August, the Crime Suppression Team effected 23 felony and 43 misdemeanor arrests; and during the month of December, 174 felony and 715 arrests were effected.

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Property Crimes

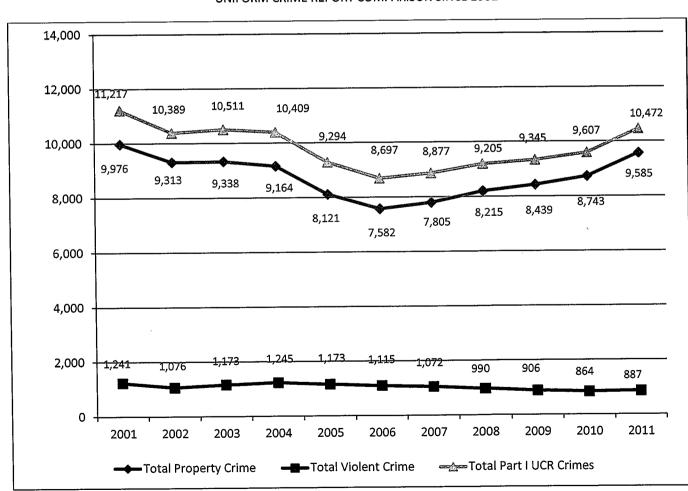
In 2011, burglaries declined by 1.8% and motor vehicle thefts declined by 3%. Despite 916 arrests and proactive enforcement efforts, larcenies in particular continue to be a challenge for MBPD, which increased by 12.7%. Arrests for this type of crime increased by 3% over the prior year; however, MBPD will continue to focus efforts on addressing this type of crime in conjunction with local business owners, especially along our beachfront. By Uniform Crime Reporting standards, larcenies have 9 sub-categories that include shoplifting, vehicle break-ins where a theft occurs, thefts from a building, all other thefts which comprises thefts from beach blankets.

Upon review and analysis of UCR Part I Crimes from 2001 to 2011, it is evident that, much like over the last four (4) years, larcenies are the main driver in the increase of overall crime. In 2011, 5 of the 7 UCR crime types are still lower than the levels for 2009. Larcenies are considered crimes of opportunity, associated with a variety of factors which include a struggling economy and the continued popularity of Miami Beach with increased visitors and countless special events – all of which create a "target rich environment".

Again, notwithstanding, the year to year, total property crimes and the total Part I UCR crimes are still lower than they were a decade ago.

Below is a chart that depicts the UCR crime report comparisons from 2001 through 2011:

UNIFORM CRIME REPORT COMPARISON SINCE 2001



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The chart below depicts Part I UCR category comparisons from calendar year 2009 through 2011, as well as the percentage difference from 2001 and 2010:

Type of Crime	2001	2009	2010	2011	Percent Difference from 2001	Percent Difference from 2010
Homicide	6	7	8	4	-33.33%	-50%
Rape	98	41	39	40	-59.18%	2.56%
Robbery	484	421	352	370	-23.55%	5.11%
Aggravated Assault	653	437	465	473	-27.57%	1.72%
Total Violent Crime	1,241	906	864	887	-28.53%	2.66%
Burglary	1,607	1,207	1,192	1,171	-27.13%	-1.76%
Larceny	7,000	6,567	6,957	7,838	11.97%	12.66%
Motor Vehicle Theft	1,369	665	594	576	-57.93%	-3.03%
Total Property Crime	9,976	8,439	8,743	9,585	-3.92%	9.63%
Total Part I UCR Crimes	11,217	9,345	9,607	10,472	-6.64%	9%

In addition, the following are highlights of some of the proactive arrests and notable police actions by Patrol and Criminal Investigations Division personnel:

Patrol Division

- On Christmas Eve, a patron was stabbed at Club LIV and the subject fled the scene. Responding detectives were able to determine the identity of the subject and distributed a flyer. As soon as Officer Charles King received the flyer he began to diligently look for the subject of the stabbing. A week after the stabbing incident, Officer King located and arrested the subject while patrolling the North District. Further investigation revealed that the subject had an extensive experience with violence and arrested several times for various felonies.
- On February 25, 2011, Sergeant Feldman and Officers Reid and Chenoweth responded to a fully engulfed fire at an occupied residence located at 2234 Prairie Avenue. The residence had a locked gate and access to the interior of the residence was limited. Undeterred by the locked gate, Officer Chenoweth forcibly pushed the gate open while the Sergeant Feldman and Reid banged on the windows to get the attention of the occupants. Once Officer Chenoweth, Reid and Sergeant Feldman gained access to the courtyard they observed a disoriented 84 year old male. The officers secured him and then went into the residence to look for other occupants despite the heat and smoke of the fire.
- In a two day span from July 11-12, 2011, Sergeant Nolan and his squad Officer Romero and Vidal were responsible for the arrest of 5 violent criminals with extensive criminal past. While on a robbery prevention detail at 10:30 PM, Sergeant Nolan and Officers Romero and Vidal observed a subject on the Boardwalk at 41 Street acting suspiciously. The officers confronted the subject who was trying to conceal his identity and carrying a deadly weapon. The subject who had a criminal history for violent crimes was arrested. At 2:00 AM, the same officers arrested a subject who was hiding behind beach chairs about to harm two women. At 3:30 AM, an armed robbery was reported at 4130 Collins Avenue involving three subjects. Acting on "be on the look-out" description of the subjects, Sergeant Nolan and Officers Vidal and Romero responded to the area located and arrested the subjects. The arrest of these three

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subjects resulted in the recovery of the victim's stolen money, and two stun guns. The proactive crime prevention efforts of these officers, is nothing less than extraordinary and just great police work.

Criminal Investigations Division

- During the month of February, the City of Miami Beach experienced 10 incendiary fires which included apartment buildings, hotels and dumpsters in a span of ten days. Sergeants Ibrahim Garcia and Howard Bennett became involved in the investigation. While canvassing the area of the fires it was learned that there were surveillance cameras that may have recorded images of a subject. In another area canvass near the fires, Sergeant Garcia observed a subject fitting the description of the person in the video and finally took him into custody. As a result of effective interviews by Sergeant Bennett along with physical evidence and investigative work of Sergeant Garcia, the subject confessed to the fires.
- Acting on a complaint of narcotics activity at 1311 West Avenue Detectives of the Strategic Investigations Unit were able to dismantle a major illicit narcotics distribution operation. These Detectives conducted surveillance of the persons coming and going at the location. They conducted a traffic stop of a subject leaving the location, which led to the arrest of a subject for possession of cocaine, resulting in enough information to obtain a search warrant of the premises. Upon execution of the search warrant the Detectives recovered 736 grams of marijuana, 42 grams of hydrocodone, 40 grams of cocaine, \$5,000 and the arrest of a major drug dealer.
- Due to the tenacity of Robbery Detective McCue he was able to foil an armed robbery ring. These robbers were preying upon unsuspecting tourists utilizing military tactics to ambush and take their property. During one the robberies which took place within a two day period the victim was shot. Through investigative leads persons of interest as well as a vehicle description was developed. The information led to suspects possibly living in the City of Hialeah. The suspect information was passed on to the Hialeah Police Department. On September 30, Hialeah Police Department acting on the information conducted a felony stop of the subjects in the vehicle and held the suspects until Detective McCue arrived. Upon Detective McCue's arrival interviewed the suspects obtained a confession led to positively identified and linked the subjects to the robberies in Miami Beach. Further investigation by Detective McCue linked these subjects to a carjacking in the City of Miami Beach.

The MBPD will continue to proactively fight crime in 2012, and will utilize all available resources strategically to address criminal activity, by effectively utilizing all available resources. Emphasis will be placed on community policing, based on timely crime analysis information, as well as anticipating criminal behavior associated with major events and other activities taking place in the City.

Please contact me if you have any additional questions.

JMG/RAM/DM

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER NO. LTC #1084-2011

LETTER TO COMMISSION 12: 00

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

TO:

Mayor Matti Herrera Bower and Members of the City Commission

FROM:

Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE:

April 11, 2011

SUBJECT: 2010 ANNUAL PART I UNIFORM CRIME REPORT

The purpose of this Letter to the Commission (LTC) is to inform the Mayor and City Commission of the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) statistics for Part I Crimes as indexed annually, for calendar year 2010. Part I Crimes include Homicide, Forcible Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny and Motor Vehicle Theft.

Calendar year 2010 also produced one of the busiest and most challenging years that the City of Miami Beach Police Department (MBPD) has experienced in recent history. This was primarily due to the ever increasing popularity of Miami Beach as a destination of choice for local, national, and international visitors, as well as a tremendous influx of people for special events including Pro-Bowl, Super Bowl, Spring Break, and Memorial Day Weekend just to name a few. The record number of tourists and visitors to our City and increase in those numbers from 2009 to 2010 is supported by the City of Miami Beach resort tax revenue.

That being said, MBPD's efforts have made this community safer, as 2010 concludes the fourth, consecutive year where there has been a decrease in violent crime and produced the lowest violent crime number since 2000. Moreover, the 4.64% decline in violent crime statistics (homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) which sets the tone for making the City of Miami Beach a safe community, and continues to support the efforts which drive public perception as reflected in the 2009 Community Satisfaction Survey, where 83.9% of respondents rating Police either excellent or

Clearly, the most striking positive crime statistics are the significant decrease of 16.39% in robberies and 4.88% decrease in rapes. This decline can be attributed to the proactive efforts by the Robbery Squad targeting career criminals along with investigative support from Miami Dade Police Department's Robbery Intervention detail, United States Marshalls Office and the Federal Bureau of Investigation leading to high profile arrests which had a dramatic effect on the number of robberies committed on Miami Beach. On the other hand, the decrease in the number of rapes is due primarily to effective outreach by MBPD personnel during Spring Break in the entertainment district. This intervention included a MBPD/Nightlife Symposium, date rape prevention, and general crime prevention efforts.

Despite the fact that 4 of the 7 Part I Crime categories decreased in 2010, the City of Miami Beach experienced a 2.8% increase in total Part I Crimes reported as compared to 2009. The driver for this slight increase in total Part I Crimes is primarily attributed once again to a significant rise in larcenies, which are petty property crimes, such as shoplifting.

Even with several proactive enforcement initiatives and 1,780 larceny arrests, preventing this type of crime continues to be challenging. Two specific types of crimes that contribute to the increased rate in larcenies are an increase with petty thefts, especially those related to larcenies, that occur in the vicinity of pools and beach areas where tourists leave property unattended; and the increased number of retail thefts associated with the opening of several new businesses such as CVS, Walgreens, multiple hotels, new parking lots and many other venues across the City.

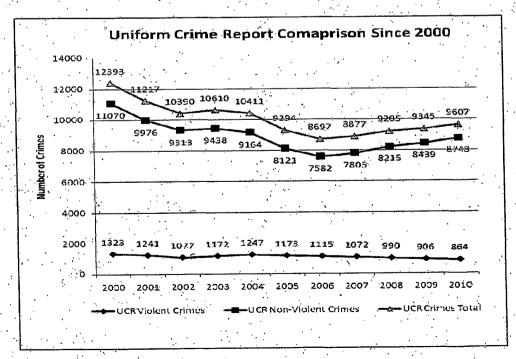
The chart below depicts Part I UCR category comparisons between calendar year 2009 and 2010, as well as the percentage differences between both years:

Type of Crime	2009	2010	% Difference from 2009	% Difference from 2000	
Homicide	7	8	14.29%	+33%	
Rape	41	39	-4.88%	-36%	
Robbery	421	352	-16.39	-35.17%	
Aggravated Assault	437	465	6.41%	-34.78%	
Total Violent Crime	906	864	-4.64%	-34.69%	
Burglary	1,207	1,192	-1.24%	-28.57%	
Larceny	6,567	6,957	5.94%	-13.86%	
Motor Vehicle Theft	665	594	-10.68%	-55.13%	
Total Property Crime	8,439	8,743	3.60%	-21.02%	
Total Part I UCR Crimes	9,345	9,607	. 2.80%	-22.48%	

Upon review and analysis of UCR Part I Crimes for the last ten (10) years, it is evident the MBPD's approach to public safety has yielded positive results for our community. It is evident that violent crimes (homicides, rapes, robberies, and aggravated assaults) as a whole have substantially declined, primarily due to the strategies implemented by MBPD. In fact, the City's crime rate is lower today than it has been through most of the years since 2000.

Although overall crime has increased slightly over the last four years, the increase has been attributed primarily to the rising numbers of larceny crimes. For the most part, larceny crimes are crimes of opportunity, associated with a variety of societal factors including a struggling economy, the continued popularity of Miami Beach with increased visitors creating "a target rich environment", and countless special events creating more opportunities for victimization.

Below is a chart that depicts the UCR crime report comparisons from 2000 through 2010:



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In keeping with our commitment toward making the City of Miami Beach a safer place to live, work and play and visit, the following are highlights of some of the proactive crime prevention initiatives and noteworthy case investigations by the MBPD during calendar year 2010:

Patrol Division

- During the month of March, "Operation Orthos" was implemented which involved an antigang sweep and crime deterrent initiative focusing on Washington Avenue in the evening hours led to the 45 felony, 38 misdemeanor arrests and the recovery of 10 firearms.
- In an effort to prevent thefts occurring on the beach during the month of May, the Midnight Shift implemented a proactive detail involving the deployment of uniform and plainclothes officers resulting in 25 arrests.
- In the Month of September, the Afternoon Shift conducted a Citywide traffic enforcement detail that led to 965 hazardous moving citations and 35 arrests.
- During the month of October, the Patrol Theft Task Force initiative resulted in 122 felony, 605 misdemeanor, 56 warrant and 28 traffic arrests in addition to 230 hazardous moving violations.
- Enhanced Holiday operations during the month of December led to 25 arrests, 235 hazardous moving citations, 22 field interview cards, and 16 parking citations.

Criminal Investigations Division

- All 2010 homicide cases have either been cleared by arrest or exceptionally cleared.
- Economic crimes investigators dismantled an international multi-million dollar credit card fraud ring. The investigation led to the forfeiture of \$12,000 and the arrest and prosecution of several involved subjects.
- Auto Crimes Detectives conducted proactive investigative operation utilized seized vehicles and deploying GPS tracking system. This investigation resulted in the apprehension of the subjects and the recovery and return of the \$135,000 of stolen property.
- The Robbery Squad arrested several armed robbery subjects responsible for a brutal beating
 of tourists in their hotel room.
- Special Investigations Unit Detectives confiscated 1,330 grams of cocaine, 5,834 grams of marijuana, 270 grams of ecstasy, 922 grams of steroids. These investigations led to the arrest of 332 subjects, seizure of 11 vehicles and \$142,560.

The MBPD will continue to proactively fight crime in 2011, by effectively utilizing all available resources, and deploying them at peak times and locations known for criminal activity. Emphasis will be placed on directing police officers to specific areas, based on timely crime analysis information as well as focusing on anticipating criminal behavior associated with major events and other activities taking place in the City. The MBPD will seek innovative technology by enhancing crime scene processing, accessing criminal databases with the local/state/ federal agencies, etc.

Going forward there will be a concerted effort to apply more crime prevention interventions through environmental design to crime solving with our Neighborhood Resource Officers through security surveys of business's and residents. Proving very effective in terms of criminal apprehension will be the participation in the various Federal, State and local Task Forces which has become a formidable force multiplier gaining access to agencies with greater resources than the MBPD. There will also be a continued commitment to maintaining and developing homeowner and business associations utilizing them as a forum for crime prevention and continuing partnership with the community. In conclusion, more will continue to be done to combat crime in our City, although the Police Department has done much with fewer resources to keep our residents and visitors safe.

Please contact me if you have any additional questions.

JMG:CN:RAM:MG:tr